



# Waste Discharge Requirements Limited Domestic and Small Nondomestic Wastewater Treatment Systems

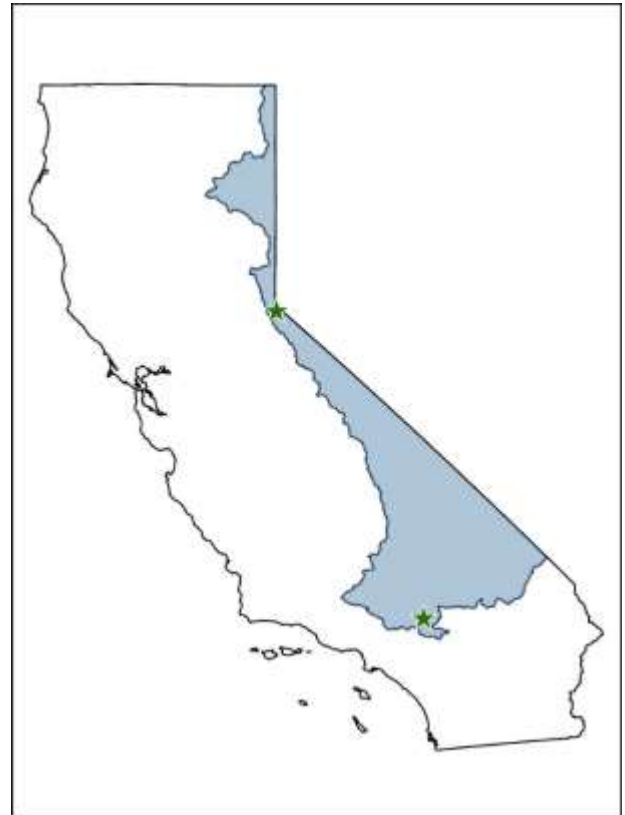
## **What: Draft General Orders**

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan Water Board) staff are developing two draft general waste discharge requirements (General Orders) applicable to facilities located within the Lahontan Region: Waste Discharge Requirements for Limited Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems and Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Nondomestic Wastewater Treatment Systems. Both General Orders are intended to improve water quality protection through effective regulation of small-scale wastewater treatment facilities.

## **Who and Where: Wastewater and Facility Types**

Domestic wastewater examples include waste from toilets, bathtubs, showers, laundry facilities, dishwashing facilities, and garbage disposals located inside residential or commercial buildings. Nondomestic wastewater examples include waste from cultivation, manufacturing, maintenance located inside commercial operations. For the purposes of these general orders, nondomestic wastewater treatment systems cannot incorporate discharge from domestic sources.

Any facility who discharges or proposes to discharge wastewater to land (including subsurface) located within the boundaries of the Lahontan Region must be regulated by a local agency or the Lahontan Water Board. Facilities with monthly average flow rate of less than or equal to 20,000 gallons per day for domestic flows and 100,000 gallons per day for nondomestic flows could be eligible for the respective domestic and nondomestic general orders, dependent on other site-specific conditions.



***Map of Lahontan Region within CA***

## **How: Water Board Authority**

Water Code section 13260(a) requires that any person discharging waste or proposing to discharge waste within any region, other than to a community sewer system and that could affect the quality of the waters of the state, file a report of the discharge, referred to as Report of



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Waste Discharge (ROWD), to obtain coverage under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Program or a waiver of WDRs Program.

## Why: Regional Need

The Lahontan Water Board recognized a need to consistently and effectively regulate wastewater discharges to small wastewater treatment systems from facilities, including both domestic and nondomestic wastewater not regulated by a Local Agency Management Program. The most similar small treatment system, discharge to land regulation is the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Order [WQ 2014-0153-DWQ](#) General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (State Board Small Domestic Systems Order).

The State Board Small Domestic Systems Order regulates the discharges from small domestic wastewater treatment and disposal systems. However, it does not include either coverage for small nondomestic wastewater discharges or nitrogen effluent concentration limits for limited domestic wastewater treatment systems. The differing roles of the State Water Board General Order and the draft general orders, regarding flow and nitrogen limits, are compiled in the following table as a comparison of maximum monthly daily average treatment flows (treatment flows) and minimum threshold flows for nitrogen limit evaluation (threshold flows).

General Order for Wastewater Treatment Systems	Treatment Flow (gallons per day)	Threshold Flow (gallons per day)
State Board Small Domestic Systems Order	100,000	20,000
Lahontan Water Board Limited Domestic General Order	20,000	0
Lahontan Water Board Small Nondomestic General Order	100,000	0

## When: Next Steps

Lahontan Water Board staff are in the early stages of developing the General Orders. Stakeholder participation is a very important component of this project, especially during the development process. Outreach will occur through the California Environmental Quality Act Scoping process and the formal comment period of the draft release of the Orders. During the initial stages of this project, Lahontan Water Board staff welcomes any comments or questions. Please feel free to directly contact staff members: TJ Middlemis-Clark ([timothy.middlemis-clark@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:timothy.middlemis-clark@waterboards.ca.gov), 530-542-5463) or Alex Spencer ([alex.spencer@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:alex.spencer@waterboards.ca.gov), 530-542-5488).